

HOUSE RESOLUTION 66

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to honor Mr. James Larry Sills on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to pay homage to those exemplary citizens who have given unreservedly of themselves in service of their respective vocations, communities and families; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James Larry Sills is most assuredly one such remarkable citizen who is richly deserving of this Body's commendation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sills has served the tenets of quality education with the greatest dignity and integrity for 37 years, 33 of those years as Principal of Walnut Hill Elementary School in Harriman; and

WHEREAS, James Sills was born in Sunbright to Charles and Lula Sumner Sills; he moved to Harriman at a young age and attended South Harriman Elementary School prior to graduating from South Harriman High School, where he was Co-Captain of both the football and basketball teams; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sills received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Tennessee Technological University, and his Master's and Ed.S. degrees from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, James' distinguished career in education began in the Roane County School System at Emory Elementary School and, in 1963, he was hired by the Harriman City School System as a teacher-coach, where his teams were consistent winners; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sills began his illustrious tenure at Walnut Hill in 1966, and during that time the school was the first elementary school in Roane County to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the first school in the county to be designated a State Exemplary School in Reading and Math; and

WHEREAS, Walnut Hill was also the first recipient of the Golden Apple Award, presented by the Roane County Chamber of Commerce for outstanding faculty; and

WHEREAS, throughout his distinguished career James Sills has contributed his time and remarkable talents as a member of the National Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Harriman Education Association and Phi Delta Kappa; and

WHEREAS, as an educator and administrator, James Sills has distinguished himself as the very epitome of the conscientious and dedicated employee, as he has often exceeded the call of duty to ensure the best possible learning environment at Walnut Hill Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, he is highly valued as both a professional and a friend at the school, and his efficiency, compassion and aplomb have been important components in the school's day-to-day operation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sills earned the respect and admiration of Walnut Hill's administration, faculty, staff and students by means of his superior performance and his genuine concern for the school's collective welfare and the well-being of each individual associated therewith; and

WHEREAS, a devout Christian, James Sills evinces his devout religious faith as an active member of the Cancy Ford Baptist Church in Harriman, where he has served with utmost dedication and acumen as Sunday School Superintendent for many years; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who is wholly dedicated to his family, Mr. Sills is most fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Linda; their son, Dr. E. Scott Sills, and two precious grandchildren, Chas and Ann Marie; and

WHEREAS, he will soon answer the tantalizing call of retirement to the great dismay of his friends and colleagues at Walnut Hill Elementary School, who will be hosting a reception in his honor on May 23, 1999; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly wishes to join in this celebration by recognizing Mr. Sills for his exemplary career at Walnut Hill Elementary School and his personification of the ideal public servant; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby honor and recognize Mr. James Larry Sills on the occasion of his much deserved retirement, salute his life of purpose and commitment, and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.